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BOOK REVIEW

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN FEMALE, Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, and Paul H. Gebhard. Publisher: W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1953.

This is an analysis of information collected and interpreted by the authors and their staff as the result of interviews with 5940 women and reinforced with information from an additional 1849 interviews, although this latter group is not included in the statistical studies.

The volume is in three parts, containing 18 chapters totaling 810 pages, including the bibliography. Part I: History and Method. This section sets forth Dr. Kinsey's reasons for writing this book, and presents an explanation of the analytic and recording methods used. It is here he qualifies the work as being scientific and not an argument against present moral standards as might be construed from reading Part II should that part alone be read. Accurate and accepted statistical methods are used and are fully explained in the text. Part II: This section deals with the types of sexual activity among females, and includes such subjects as pre-adolescent sexual development, masturba-

tion, pre-marital, marital, and extra-marital activities, homosexuality, and total sexual output. These subjects are scientifically presented, with no obvious intent to editorialize the facts or figures which establish this volume as a scientific work. Part III: Comparisons of Female and Male. This section is mainly an anatomic-physiologic review. Most of the information in this section is necessarily secondhanded, but is probably quite accurate in that all information is well screened and the information on human responses is substantiated by actual experiments with laboratory animals under controlled conditions.

Throughout the book efforts are made to explain the validity of information where such validity might be questioned, and to intercept misinterpretations of data almost before the reader is able to so misinterpret.

The work is very interesting and informative and should be of value to the medical profession as a whole, but especially to those men who are faced with the problems of advising patients with sexual problems.

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